



MontCAS

Criterion-Referenced Test-Alternate (CRT-Alt)

Student Report

2011

Letter from Superintendent

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) Criterion-Referenced Test-Alternate (CRT-Alternate) is the state’s measure of student performance on the state content standards, which establish goals for what students should know and be able to do.

Students in grades 3-8 and 10 in Reading and Math and in grades 4, 8, and 10 in Science take the CRT or CRT-Alternate each year. Your student participated in the CRT-Alternate Assessment. The CRT-Alternate measures your student’s performance based on alternate achievement standards. The CRT-Alternate is aligned with the Montana state standards for Reading, Mathematics, and Science. Test results are based on teacher observations of your student’s performance on specifically designated test items.

This report shows how your student performed on the March 2011 CRT-Alternate. The results of this standards-based assessment are reported in five performance levels: Advanced, Proficient, Nearing Proficiency, and Novice. While some students may not yet meet the standards, keep in mind that the standards are rigorous and challenging. Our long-term goal is for all students to achieve these standards so that Montana youth will be among the best educated in the world. School staff at your school will be able to provide further information about your student’s performance on the CRT-Alternate.

The CRT-Alternate is only one measure of student performance and should be viewed in the context of the student’s local programs and other measures. The CRT-Alternate is required by the No Child Left Behind Act and is part of an ongoing statewide educational improvement process. I encourage you to contact your child’s teacher for more information.

Sincerely,

Denise Juneau
Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, Montana 59620-2501
<http://www.opi.mt.gov>

What can you do to help your student?

It is important to support your student in his or her studies now and throughout his or her future education.

Here are some tips for supporting your student in the completion of his or her schoolwork:

- Have regular discussions with your student’s teacher(s) to see what you can do at home to support your student’s work in school, such as making sure homework is done.
- Discuss with your student the subjects in which he or she needs improvement. Talk about whether there has been a noticeable improvement. If not, find out why.
- Ask your student to explain what he or she is studying. These conversations help you to follow your student’s progress and help your student to remember what he or she has learned.
- Make sure your student gets enough rest, eats properly, and arrives at school on time every day. Send your student to school prepared to learn.

What is the MontCAS Criterion-Referenced Test-Alternate (CRT-Alt)?

The Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) Criterion-Referenced Test-Alternate (CRT-Alt) is the state’s measure of student performance on the state content standards, which establish goals for what all students should know and be able to do.

Students in grades 3-8 and 10 in Math and Reading and in grades 4, 8, and 10 in Science take the CRT or the CRT-Alt each year. Your student participated in the CRT-Alt. The CRT-Alt measures your student’s performance based on alternate achievement standards. The CRT-Alt is aligned with the Montana state standards for Mathematics, Reading, and Science. Test results are based on teacher observations of your student’s performance on specifically designed test items.

Who takes the CRT-Alt?

How a student with disabilities will participate in the state’s accountability system is decided by the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. Only students considered to have a significant cognitive disability are eligible to take the alternate assessment. IEP teams are informed that the decision to have a student participate in the CRT-Alt may not be based on excessive or extended absence; disability category; social, cultural, or economic factors; the amount of time receiving special education services; or academic achievement significantly lower than his or her same-age peers.

What subjects were tested in spring 2011?

Mathematics	Grades 3-8 and 10
Reading	Grades 3-8 and 10
Science	Grades 4, 8, and 10

What types of test questions are on the CRT-Alt?

- Multiple-choice questions: Students choose the correct answer from four options. A student’s score is determined by the level of support, or scaffolding, required to choose a correct response. Each student has an opportunity to first answer without assistance to assure the opportunity to get the highest score possible.
- Other questions may ask the students to categorize items, place items on charts, etc.
- All choices are in the form of pictures, words, numbers, or a combination of these. The test administrator can adapt these materials, such as enlarging the text, to help a student access the content on the test.

How are the CRT-Alt results used?

MontCAS CRT-Alt test results are used for the following purposes:

- to assist educators in planning improvements to curriculum and instruction
- to determine whether schools are helping their students meet the state content standards

Where can you find more information?

Where can you find more information:
<https://data.opi.mt.gov/opireportingcenter>

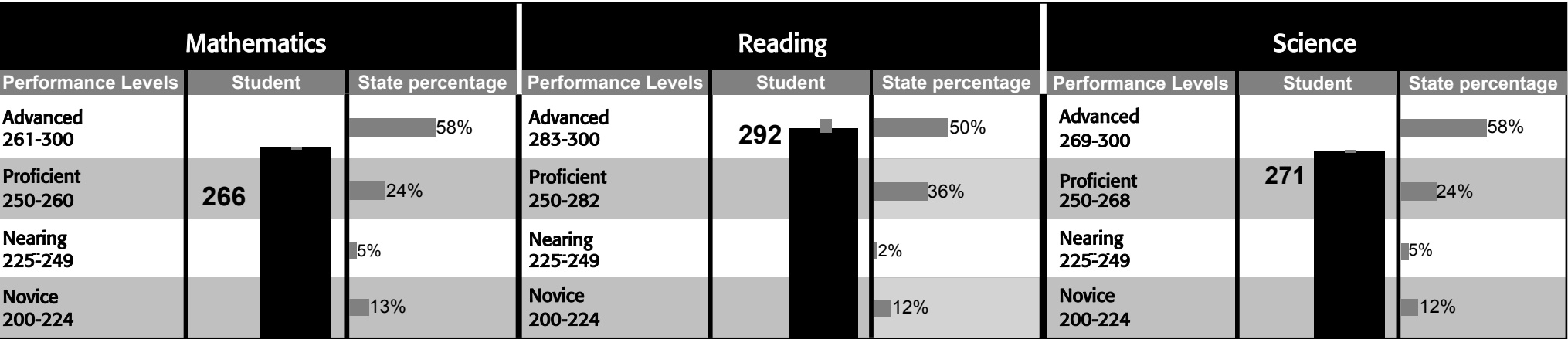
Montana requirements for the participation of students with disabilities on the CRT: http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPcl_7

OPI contact: Judy Snow, State Assessment
Director, 406-444-3656,
jsnow@mt.gov

Your student's performance level and score in each content area

Display of scores and probable range of scores

In the figure below your students performance is displayed. For each subject, the left column lists the possible performance levels with the scores needed to achieve those levels. The center column is your student’s performance where the black bar is their score and the small grey bar is the range of scores they might have achieved had they taken the test multiple times. The right hand column is the percentage of students that achieved each performance level on the CRT-Alternate across the state.



Your student's Mathematics Scaled Score is **266** which is at the **Advanced Level**. Your student's possible range of scores is from 265 to 267. The student at the Advanced level accurately and independently demonstrates the ability to carry out comprehensive content-specific performance indicators.

- consistently and independently arrives at correct answer
- generalizes very basic information
- completes two to three-step processes of addition and subtraction
- completes basic division and multiplication problem
- applies beginning connections between concrete and symbolic representations by using a chart/table to draw conclusions
- creates graph/tables and explains conclusions drawn from graph
- understands and communicates relationship between variables
- solves problems using bills and their values
- follows navigational directions and recalls shapes and locations

Your student's Reading Scaled Score is **292** which is at the **Advanced Level**. Your student's possible range of scores is from 290 to 294. The student at the Advanced level accurately and independently demonstrates the ability to carry out comprehensive content-specific performance indicators.

- consistently and independently arrives at correct answer
- identifies main idea and supporting details from various reading selections
- identifies appropriate resources for gaining specific information
- draws conclusions from a variety of texts (i.e., poem, fiction)
- communicates meaning of new and unfamiliar vocabulary
- communicates a complete thought related to topic or concept
- uses word-recognition skills, context clues, and prior knowledge to understand text
- rereads to gain understanding

Your student's Science Scaled Score is **271** which is at the **Advanced Level**. Your student's possible range of scores is from 270 to 272. The student at the Advanced level accurately, independently, and consistently demonstrates the ability to carry out comprehensive content-specific performance indicators.

- consistent performance across standards
- capable of abstract thought/models
- understands scientific variables
- ability to handle three distracters
- ninety-five percent of responses will be “4”

Scores on Montana Content Standards

CRT-Alternate results are reported for Montana Content Standards in Mathematics, Reading, and Science to provide standard-specific information about the student’s achievement. The results can be used to show the student’s relative performance on the standards within a content area.

Mathematics	Total Possible Points	Points Earned by Your	Range of Points Earned by Students Who Have Achieved Proficiency in
1. Problem Solving 2. Numbers and Operations 3. Algebra 4. Geometry 7. Patterns, Relations, and Functions	This standard is assessed within the frameworks of standard 2-7		
	40	39	26-38
	16	16	9-161
	16	16	1-16
	20	20	17-20
Reading	Total Possible Points	Points Earned by Your	Range of Points Earned by Students Who Have Achieved Proficiency in
1. Students construct meaning as they comprehend, interpret, and respond to what they read. 2. Students apply a range of skills and strategies to read. 3. Students set goals, monitor, and evaluate their reading progress. 4. Students select, read, and respond to print and nonprint material for a variety of purposes. 5. Students gather, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information from a variety of sources, and communicate their findings in ways appropriate for their purposes and audiences.	56	55	41-54
	24	23	13-24
	This standard is not measurable in a statewide assessment.		
	12	12	7-12
	8	8	3-8
Science	Total Possible Points	Points Earned by Your	Range of Points Earned by Students who have achieved proficiency in
1. Scientific Investigations 2. Physical Science 3. Life Science 4. Earth/Space Science 5. Impact on Society 6. Historical Development	20	19	14-20
	44	44	31-42
	20	20	16-20
	36	34	31-36
	Subscores are not reported for this standard. Subscores are not reported for this standard.		